

# News Release

# Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 24, 2000

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### DOMENICI AND KENNEDY TO UNVEIL MENTAL HEALTH & VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

Thursday, May 25

11:30 a.m. (EDT)

Senate Budget Committee Hearing Room, 608 Dirksen

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senators Pete Domenici and Edward Kennedy will Thursday unveil the **Mental Health Early Intervention, Treatment, and Prevention Act of 2000**, new legislation to address the link between mental illness and violence in America.

The Domenici-Kennedy bill would authorize:

- ! A Mental Illness Anti-Stigma and Suicide Prevention Campaign;
- ! Emergency Mental Health Centers to serve as the central receiving point in communities for families, friends, emergency medical personnel, and law enforcement to take an individual possibly in need of emergency mental health services;
- ! Training for teachers and medical personnel to identify and respond to individuals with a mental illness;
- ! Mental Health Courts that maintain separate dockets and handle only cases involving individuals with a mental illness;
- ! Blue Ribbon Panel to make recommendations on issues relating to mental illness. It will focus on diagnosis and treatment, and the interaction between mental illness and the criminal justice system; and,
- ! Increased funding for innovative treatment and research.